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SUBJECT: SYG BAN EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT FOR AHTISAARI TO
SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: USUN 00097

¶1. (SBU) At a February 15 lunch with Security Council
Permreps, SYG Ban said he fully supported Special Envoy
Ahtisaari's status proposal and the "intended way forward."
Ban described the situation as being at a crucial crossroads,
for which there could be no undue delay or derailment. He
said he was urging Belgrade and Pristina to engage
constructively with Ahtisaari on a compromise solution.

¶2. (SBU) South African Ambassador Kumalo said the Kosovo
issue would be particularly difficult for Africans and the
manner in which the SYG transmitted Ahtisaari's proposal to
the Council would be important. South Africa saw three
difficult aspects to the issue: the precedent established
through a Security Council resolution that splits a sovereign
state; adherence to the NAM principles of territorial
integrity and sovereignty; and that there should be no reward
for Kosovar impatience. Kumalo said the NAM position would
take into account the basic principles of territorial
integrity and sovereignty.

WOLFF